

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY  
PEORIA 5, ILLINOIS

December 20, 1951

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
The University of Wisconsin  
College of Agriculture  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Dr. Stodola has referred to me your informative letter of December 12. I am much interested in the work which you are initiating on the genetics of the actinomycetes, and we shall be happy to help you in every way we can. In connection with our research in various fermentations we maintain a substantial collection of cultures of different groups of microorganisms, including some actinomycetes. To consider more specifically your request for particular species, we shall be happy to send to you cultures of Streptomyces lavendulae NRRL B-547, S. coelicolor NRRL B-1257, and S. venezuelae NRRL B-902. This latter culture represents an isolate obtained from Professor David Gottlieb of the University of Illinois; it is not the culture isolated by Burkholder and used by Parke-Davis for Chloromycetin production. In addition to these, I am sending you a culture of Streptomyces antibioticus NRRL B-1115. This culture, as you know, produces the antibiotic actinomycin.

I am not at this time forwarding a culture of Streptomyces aureofaciens, and before doing so I should wish to discuss with you personally regarding certain complications which might result from its use.

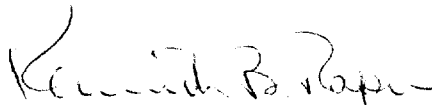
I am much interested also in your ruminations regarding the preservation of microorganisms. I am not enough of a physiobiologist to evaluate the various suggestions which you put forth. Using the lyophil technique for preservation, we have had exceptionally good results here over a period of ten years. Our approach, I must admit, has been rather empirical, and we have settled upon a procedure which seems to work quite well and is not too time consuming without, I fear, knowing too much about the phenomena which are responsible for its success.

If you could find it possible to visit the Laboratory, both Dr. Stodola and I should be most happy to have you do so. It would then give us an

2-Professor Joshua Lederberg-12-20-51

opportunity to discuss many subjects in much greater detail than can possibly be done through correspondence. We do not work on Saturdays but should be happy to have you come on any other day, or days, that is convenient to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kenneth B. Raper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kenneth B. Raper, In Charge  
Culture Collection Section  
Fermentation Division  
Northern Regional Research Laboratory